

## Stronger 401

### Chapter 401: Bodhisattva Spirit Liquid and Returning Yuan Spirit Grass, Immortal City of the Central Divine Dynasty\_2

Here, they had abundant resources for food, clothing, shelter, and transportation. They also had their own land that they could continuously cultivate. Most importantly, after achieving outstanding success in helping Lin Xuankong plant medicinal herbs, some common people could occasionally receive a Spirit Elixir as a reward! Comparing life outside the Secret Realm to inside it, how could they not be filled with hope for their future lives? How could they not revere Lin Xuankong, the Master of the Secret Realm?

After Lin Xuankong let everyone rise, he looked at the three most important medicinal herbs for the Dharma-tier Gui Ling Elixir. According to Young Lady Li Xiaolan, she still couldn't refine Immortal-tier Gui Ling Pills. Furthermore, if he wanted to refine Immortal-grade Turtle Ling Elixirs in the future, the main 24 types of rare medicinal herbs would all need to be over a hundred years old! Although these 24 types of rare medicinal herbs could be bought in small quantities outside, if he wanted to refine Immortal-grade Turtle Ling Elixirs in large quantities, he would certainly need to plant them in large quantities himself.

At this moment, Lin Xuankong looked at nearly a thousand tender sprouts of a medicinal herb called Rejuvenation Grass before him.

[Rejuvenation Grass: Araliaceae, perennial herb, planted for three days and six hours.

Medicinal Efficacy: Potent nourishing effect. Nine-leaved and nine-rooted ones can nourish Yin and strengthen Yang, replenish Qi and Blood, and alleviate or eliminate symptoms such as headaches, palpitations, insomnia, forgetfulness, and general weakness. They can also remove accumulated phlegm, stimulate appetite and spleen, promote blood circulation and diuresis, and induce excitement, etc.

Status: Good]

This batch of Rejuvenation Grass was just planted in the medicinal land. In these few days, they had just begun to take root and sprout, with only one leaf growing out. As they grew continuously, every few days, this magical Spirit Grass would grow another leaf until it had nine leaves and nine rootlets. Then, it would stop rooting and sprouting. Only after a hundred years would it blossom and bear fruit!

Previously, when Young Lady Li Xiaolan refined Dharma-tier Gui Ling Elixirs, she needed Rejuvenation Grass that was ten years old. So, it required waiting for ten years before using the leaves, roots, and stems of the Rejuvenation Grass for medicine! However, Immortal-tier Gui Ling Pills require Rejuvenation Grass fruits that are over a hundred years old...

Although Lin Xuankong's Lifespan was already five thousand years, making it unnecessary for him to worry about not living long enough to see the Rejuvenation Grass flower and fruit, the Turtle-Poria Elixir offered more than just extending Lifespan. Its ability to replenish Qi and Blood and True Qi was more than a hundred times more effective than the Nine Revolutions Qi Replenishing Soup of the same tier!

If Lin Xuankong could accelerate the growth of the Rejuvenation Grass, he could naturally have Young Lady Li Xiaolan refine a large quantity of Dharma-tier Gui Ling Elixirs. At that point, Lin Xuankong's speed of replenishing True Qi, nurturing his Immortal Sword, and the Tier Nine Celestial Demon Bone would also increase significantly!

Thinking of this, Lin Xuankong took out the Plant Spirit Bottle from his chest. He circulated his True Qi, forcing it out from his body, then poured a pound of clear water from the Plant Spirit Bottle onto the True Qi cluster before him. Then, he slightly shook the True Qi cluster. The pound of clear water hovering in mid-air was surprisingly dispersed into a thousand extremely even droplets.

The next moment, he waved his hand. Those thousand crystal-clear droplets immediately flew out and, under the guidance of a thousand threads of True Qi, scattered toward the roots and stems of the thousand Rejuvenation Grass plants.

The water droplets fell into the soil beside the Rejuvenation Grass and immediately soaked in.

A moment later, as Lin Xuankong carefully observed the Rejuvenation Grass, his eyes suddenly flickered.

[Rejuvenation Grass: Araliaceae, perennial herb, planted for twenty-seven days and two hours.

Medicinal Efficacy: Potent nourishing effect. Nine-leaved and nine-rooted ones can nourish Yin and strengthen Yang, replenish Qi and Blood, and alleviate or eliminate symptoms such as headaches, palpitations, insomnia, forgetfulness, and general weakness. They can also remove accumulated phlegm, stimulate appetite and spleen, promote blood circulation and diuresis, and induce excitement, etc.

Status: Blessed by Yu Zhen Bodhisattva's Spirit Liquid, possessing a 366-times growth speed; effect lasts for 366 days.]

While Lin Xuankong carefully observed the Rejuvenation Grass, the plants, which originally had just one leaf, began to sway slightly after absorbing the Spiritual Liquid. They grew continuously, with tender green leaf after leaf sprouting from the sides of their stems and rapidly unfurling!

This miraculous scene was like those time-lapse growth shots in documentaries Lin Xuankong had seen in his past life. However, those images were due to accelerated playback after filming; the scene before him was truly happening in real-time!

Seeing the Rejuvenation Grass achieve a 366-times growth speed after absorbing enough Spiritual Liquid, Lin Xuankong's heart filled with joy.

A 366-times growth speed for plants is truly magical and marvelous! It's similar to the legendary celestial methods where one day in the heavens equates to a year on earth!

At this moment, Lin Xuankong's heart was full of joy. Meanwhile, the hundreds of common people watching this scene around him had their eyes wide open, mouths agape in astonishment.

Although they had heard of Lin Xuankong's abilities before, such as changing the shape of mountains and altering river courses, most of the common people had never seen it with their own eyes. Now, they were witnessing Lin Xuankong casually sprinkle some water and make the Spirit Grass, which would normally grow slowly, rapidly develop and grow nine leaves. This miraculous method was no different from the divine abilities of Immortals and Buddhas they had heard of in legends!

Amidst the stunned expressions of the crowd, one of the common people was the first to kneel and shout, "The Divine Lord displays immortal methods and miracles! This humble one, Li Changsheng, thanks the Divine Lord for bestowing food, land, and houses, allowing us common folks to live and work in peace! We express our utmost gratitude to the Divine Lord!"

The hundreds of common people immediately knelt in unison and began shouting in chorus.

## Chapter 402: Bodhisattva Spirit Liquid, Returning Yuan Spirit Grass, and the Immortal City of the Central Divine Dynasty\_3

Their reverence was even more profound, several times more so than when Lin Xuankong had first arrived. Lin Xuankong motioned for the people to rise, then smiled at the hundreds of them. "I don't need your thanks, nor do I need your worship and reverence. As long as you work diligently and help me cultivate these medicinal herbs properly, that will be enough!"

After speaking, he smiled, his figure flickered, and he vanished from the spot.

Arriving at the stone tower on the mountain peak in the Secret Realm Center, after greeting the busy Second Lady Zhao Yufei, Lin Xuankong, who had just finished testing the effects of the Plant Spirit Liquid, found his mind racing with possibilities.

One bottle of Spiritual Liquid can be divided into a thousand drops, enough to boost the growth speed of a thousand Spirit Grass for a hundred days. This effect is incredibly magical. Most importantly, every twelve Hours, the Plant Spirit Bottle can produce another thousand drops of Spiritual Liquid, once again boosting a thousand Spirit Grass. By this calculation, this Plant Spirit Bottle could enhance the growth of 360,000 Spirit Herbs and Elixir! With so many Spirit Herbs and Elixir, if all were accelerated 366 times, the number of Dharma-tier Gui Ling Elixirs I could obtain in the future would increase exponentially. The speed at which I could nurture Immortal Swords and Tier Nine Celestial Demon Bones would also multiply many, many times! Moreover, the Plant Spirit Liquid significantly boosts injury recovery speed, almost to the point of restoring flesh to bones and reviving the dead! That Galin Bodhisattva gave me this Buddhist Spiritual Treasure; it truly surpassed my expectations with its miraculous power! This Female Bodhisattva is really great!

...

Exiting the Secret Realm, Lin Xuankong immediately called Li Xiaohu and the others to his side and had them transcribe and memorize that volume of Buddhist Scripture.

To use the Plant Spirit Bottle continuously in the future, they needed five Tier Nine Powerhouses to bathe, observe abstinence, expend True Qi, and recite Buddhist scriptures daily. This task naturally fell to Little Hu and his six companions.

Now even more awed and respectful of Lin Xuankong, Little Hu and the other six earnestly began to read the Buddhist scriptures, taking the tasks assigned by Lin Xuankong very seriously.

Next, the eight of them set out again, heading toward the Central Divine Dynasty.

「About a month later.」

The eight people flying at the front of the group suddenly focused their gaze, staring into the distance.

At this moment, an exceptionally majestic city appeared in their field of vision. The walls of this huge city were a hundred zhang high and stretched for hundreds of li. The city bricks were all made of sturdy, giant stones, each several zhang long and wide, and inscribed with countless, densely packed, profound Runes.

The eight flying in the sky could clearly see the many tall buildings within the giant city. These buildings were grand and towering, with flying eaves and upturned corners. Wisps of immortal mist curled around the buildings, and Spiritual Cranes and Immortal Birds continuously flew through the gaps between them, their clear cries echoing.

This massive city, so vast its borders were almost invisible, was entirely covered by a thin, azure spiritual membrane—clearly an immortal shield formed by the City Defense Array!

Li Xiaohu excitedly shouted, "What a huge city! A city like this... the number of people living inside must be in the trillions!"

Li Er couldn't help but laugh heartily. "There can't be that many. Most of the people in this Immortal City are disciples and servants of various Immortal Sects. It's not like a mortal city; how could it possibly hold so many people!"

Lin Xuankong focused his gaze on the plaque hanging above the Immortal City's gate, which read 'Spiritual Crane Immortal City'.

Watching the Cultivators riding various Spiritual Birds and Strange Beasts stream endlessly through the city gate, Lin Xuankong's heart also filled with a trace of excitement. After a journey of hundreds of millions of li, they had finally reached the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's Spiritual Crane Immortal City!

I wonder whether this time, amidst the competition from countless dynastic prodigies, I will be able to successfully join the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and learn true Immortal Techniques!

Chapter 403: Galin Bodhisattva Travels Miles to Seek, How Could I Possibly Become a Monk

Spiritual Crane Immortal City was surrounded by a No-fly Array, with only one entrance.

Cultivators arriving by air continuously landed on the ground and headed towards the city gate.

Besides the cultivators who had passed the Immortal Sect Disciples' inspection and were entering the city gate in a steady stream, a large number of caravans and cultivators had also gathered there. These were clearly merchant caravans from various dynasties.

After Lin Xuankong and his group landed, they merged with the crowd heading towards the city gate. Li Xiaohu quickly went ahead to gather information.

A moment later, Little Hu returned. He said with some reluctance, "Foster Father, the caravans from various dynasties are all being stopped outside the city gate. It's said that for the past three months, due to the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's disciple recruitment ceremony, unauthorized people aren't allowed into the city. To enter Spiritual Crane Immortal City, one must pay enough Profound Truth Jade, and the fees are nearly ten times higher than usual!"

Elder Steward Hu Shuo was somewhat surprised. "To enter Spiritual Crane Immortal City, one must pay Profound Truth Jade? Even a Low-grade Profound Truth Jade is worth several pieces of Exorcism Equipment. Two or three pieces of Low-grade Profound Truth Jade could be exchanged for a full set of Battle Armor! This Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect really knows how to make money!"

Yang Mountain frowned and said, "The Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect might not just be trying to make money. It's probably because this disciple recruitment ceremony has attracted too many cultivators, and they need to maintain order! After all, as cultivators, who wouldn't want to join an Immortal Sect, especially one as renowned in the Central Divine Dynasty as the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect!"

Lin Xuankong nodded slightly. "According to Lan, the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, among the many Immortal Sects in the Central Divine Dynasty, may not be the absolute top, but it still ranks among the top twenty. After all, to exclusively possess thirty-two peaks with Profound Truth Jade Ore Veins, build an Immortal City, and protect billions of ordinary people and cultivators... achieving all this without

formidable military strength is impossible! Lan also said that the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect publicly announced they have thirty-two Earth Immortals. However, they actually hide much of their true strength, including several Supreme Elders with unfathomable power."

At this point, he looked at Little Hu. "How much is the entrance fee?"

Li Xiaohu replied, "I just asked an Immortal Sect Disciple. One Low-grade Profound Truth Jade can bring in only three cultivators, and the sect will issue a Passing Jade Token valid for one year."

Han Loo's brow furrowed deeply upon hearing this. "One Low-grade Profound Truth Jade allows only three cultivators to enter for a year? There are at least thirty thousand cultivators gathered in Spiritual Crane Immortal City right now! Doesn't this mean that the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect will collect tens of thousands of pieces of Profound Truth Jade from this alone? This... this is too profitable! Chief, when will you establish an Immortal City and charge entrance fees too? I'll volunteer to guard the gate for you!"

Li Er, Yang Mountain, Liy Ruofeng, and Liy Ruoqing all shook their heads, clearly envious of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's knack for making money. For cultivators like them from small, remote dynasties, it was rare to even see a single piece of Profound Truth Jade.

If it weren't for their acquaintance with Lin Xuankong, they might never have had the chance in their entire lives to see whether Profound Truth Jade was round or flat.

They knew Lin Xuankong was now wealthy, often selling Heavy Water Spiritual Objects worth thousands of pieces of Profound Truth Jade. However, that wealth was earned through tangible sales of treasures, unlike the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, which merely had to open its gates to receive an endless stream of Profound Truth Jade.

This is the advantage of a sect possessing Immortals! Hu Shuo exclaimed, his face full of envy.

And thirty-two Immortals at that! No wonder it's different from other sects. Ah, the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect! Li Er shook his head.

When Foster Father becomes an Immortal, acquiring some Profound Truth Jade will be a simple matter! What's there to be envious about? Li Xiaohu said, forcing a smile.

Hearing this, a look of anticipation also flickered in Lin Xuankong's eyes.

Although he possessed the vast Tier Nine Celestial Demon Bone, its nurturing period had been short. The resources within the Ba Mountain Secret Realm were still under development. In places like the Great Xia Dynasty or the Rakshasa Kingdom, he was undeniably a wealthy cultivator, rich enough to rival nations. However, compared to the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, an established power in the Central Divine Dynasty, there was still a considerable gap.

At the very least, within his Ba Mountain Secret Realm and several other Secret Realms, the nurturing time had been too brief. Forget about Profound Truth Jade Ore Veins; even the production of Spiritual Objects was limited to Heavy Water Spiritual Objects...

Of course, thanks to continuous efforts over the past few years, the quantity of medicinal herbs produced had increased significantly. Now, the Ba Mountain Secret Realm boasted tens of thousands of valleys producing medicinal herbs—more than ten times the combined medicinal herb production areas of the Great Xia Dynasty and the Rakshasa Kingdom combined!

Lin Xuankong had been relentlessly promoting Profound Iron Machinery within his Ba Mountain Secret Realm. Consequently, its productivity was far greater than that of other dynasties and even Immortal Sects. After all, not even among Immortal Sects would an Immortal willingly spend time and energy refining Profound Iron Equipment for their subordinates and the common people to use.

Especially with the Plant Spirit Bottle gifted by Galin Bodhisattva, it was foreseeable that the production of rare Spirit Herbs and Elixir in Lin Xuankong's Ba Mountain Secret Realm would increase by hundreds of times in the future.

At this moment, Lin Xuankong gazed expectantly at the towering Immortal City before him. He took out three pieces of Profound Truth Jade from his robes and handed them to Little Hu.

A confident expression appeared on his face. "There's no need to stand here envying the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect. Once I become an Immortal and figure out the method to advance to the Immortal Tier, Little Hu, you and everyone else will soon become Immortals too!"



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"Then let's call our future Immortal Sect the Mu the Great Immortal Sect!" Li Xiaohu immediately laughed, happily taking the Profound Truth Jade.

Lin Xuankong: What the heck, Mu the Great Immortal Sect? This is so tacky! Do you take your Godfather for some gang leader who's taken over Wutong Village?!

At this moment, a gentle voice suddenly came from the side, "So, should it be called 'Old Man Mu, Great Immortal Sect,' or 'Brother Mu, of the Immortal Sect'?"

Everyone turned to look, their expressions immediately solemn.

Lin Xuankong was a bit surprised. "Galin Bodhisattva? How did you end up here too?"

Galin Bodhisattva, wearing a white gauze robe, tall and voluptuous, holding a Willow Purification Bottle, her face gentle and beautiful, smiled warmly. "Although the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect is not a large Immortal Sect in the Central Divine Dynasty, it has always acted righteously. The Earth Immortal Lord Spiritual Crane, who founded the sect, has a good relationship with my little martial uncle. Over the past month or so, I completed my sect's patrol mission and returned to Spirit Platform Holy Land. My master then ordered me to represent Spirit Platform Buddhism to congratulate the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect on their disciple recruitment ceremony."

After speaking, she looked carefully at Lin Xuankong. "I didn't expect to meet Mr. Mu as soon as I arrived. It seems that Mr. Mu truly has an affinity with our Spirit Platform Buddhism, and with Buddhism in general!"

Lin Xuankong felt a headache coming on. Why does this Galin Bodhisattva have her sights set on me? Moreover, she's like a persistent ghost. I keep feeling this Little Bodhisattva isn't here to congratulate the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect on their disciple recruitment ceremony, but rather has ulterior motives! A part of it must be because of me... I'm just an ordinary mortal who enjoys the pleasures of life, loves beauties, and doesn't mind a good fight... In this lifetime, it's absolutely impossible for me, Lin Xuankong, to join a Buddhist Sect and become a monk living a life of asceticism! Why am I pursuing cultivation? Is it to chant sutras and strike a wooden fish all day? Of course not! It's for a life of freedom and longevity, like the Immortal Lv Dongbin from the myths of my previous life, roaming the North Sea in the morning and the Cangwu Mountains by evening, teasing Peony Fairy and playing with dogs when I'm bored...

Galin Bodhisattva seemed to guess Lin Xuankong's thoughts and smiled gently. "Of course, I can see that Mr. Mu's mind is currently wandering, surely burdened by many attachments... I am not asking Mr. Mu to join Spirit Platform Buddhism right now. I will wait for you, Mr. Mu!"

After speaking, she lifted the Willow Purification Bottle in her hand and, accompanied by two young nuns at Ninth-Layer Perfection, headed towards the city gate.

Her soft, gentle voice drifted back, "For the next year and a half, I will be residing in Yangxin Hall of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect. If Mr. Mu requires any assistance, please feel free to seek me out! Within this Central Divine Dynasty, most Immortal Sects, including this Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, will show me some courtesy. There should be nothing I cannot help with!"

Lin Xuankong frowned. "Then, can Galin Bodhisattva help Mu Shiba pull some strings?"

Galin Bodhisattva paused, turned her head, and smiled. "Mr. Mu, please speak. As long as it concerns matters within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, there should be nothing Galin cannot accomplish!"

Lin Xuankong said with a serious expression, "I plan to participate in the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's disciple recruitment ceremony, join the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, and become a disciple of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect!"

Galin Bodhisattva's smile froze. Mu Shiba wants to join the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect? How can that be... After I informed Master Yu Zhen about Mu Shiba, Master's instructions perfectly aligned with my own thoughts. We both feel that such a prodigy with such a profound Wisdom Root should ideally be persuaded to join our Spirit Platform Buddhism!

Her clear, intelligent eyes flickered for a moment before she adopted a solemn and dignified expression. "AHEM, this is, after all, an internal matter of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect. This request is a bit difficult for Galin... I will consider it and try to find a way!"

After speaking, she gave Lin Xuankong an apologetic smile and quickly walked towards the city gate.

Lin Xuankong was rather speechless. This Little Bodhisattva was so confident just now, but now she's being evasive...

"Godfather, why do I get the feeling this pretty Bodhisattva has some special designs on you? She gave you so many treasures before, and now she's specifically come all the way to the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect. Don't tell me she traveled thousands of miles just to chase after you? This devotion is simply too touching! Godfather, why don't you just accept her? Actually, if Little Hu's godmother were a Bodhisattva, it would be quite nice to think about!" Li Xiaohu sidled up, making a comical face and wiggling his eyebrows at Lin Xuankong.

Lin Xuankong immediately flicked him on the forehead. "You're always spouting nonsense! Galin Bodhisattva is pure-minded and untainted by worldly desires. She came here for the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's disciple recruitment ceremony. How could it possibly be as you imagine!"

Then, he looked at Han Lu, Yang Mountain, and the others. "It's only Little Hu who talks nonsense all day. You all are discerning people, aren't you!"

Han Lu nodded seriously. "We indeed see it very clearly. That Galin Bodhisattva definitely has some designs on our leader!"

Yang Mountain, Hu Shuo, Liy Ruofeng, Liy Ruoqing, Li Er, and the others also nodded seriously, echoing, "Same here!"

Lin Xuankong: ...

He decisively kicked Little Hu's butt. "Hurry up and use the Profound Truth Jade to exchange for Access Jade Tokens! You, fellow, are definitely a bad influence! Yang Mountain and Hu Shuo were originally decent people, but it hasn't been long, and you've already led them all astray!"

Little Hu chuckled for a moment, rubbed his backside, and quickly ran off. Before long, he returned with nine jade tokens, handing one to Lin Xuankong and each of the others.

The group proceeded along the main road and soon neared the city gate. After an inspection by the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect disciples guarding the gate, they headed into the Immortal City. Near the

city gate, cultivators from various merchant caravans, gathered on both sides, watched the endless stream of cultivators entering and exiting, their faces filled with envy! Those who could freely enter and exit Spiritual Crane Immortal City now were all individuals who had paid with Profound Truth Jade. These cultivators from the merchant caravans were mostly here to make money; how could they bear to spend several Profound Truth Jades?

After entering the Immortal City, Lin Xuankong looked ahead. The main thoroughfare of the Immortal City was over twenty zhang wide, spacious enough for dozens of carriages to travel side by side. The road was paved with White Jade engraved with Immortal Patterns, and both sides were lined with various tall Spirit Woods, their branches lush and their forms peculiar.

The cultivators traversing the Immortal City's main avenue were clearly mostly from the various subordinate dynasties of the Immortal Sect. Their attire varied: some wore animal skins and rode fierce beasts several zhang tall; some wore leather outfits and were seated on Immortal Birds with splendid plumage; others rode in Profound Iron Vehicles pulled by horned white horses.

Although most of these cultivators were Ninth-Layer Cultivators, their backgrounds and strength were evidently far superior to the ordinary Ninth-Layer Cultivators of the Great Xia Dynasty. Even Li Xiaohu and his companions, each clad in full Battle Armor, still appeared rather shabby in comparison to these cultivators commanding Exotic Beasts and Spirit Birds.

"As expected of Spiritual Crane Immortal City. Such spacious and clean avenues! Even the Imperial City of the Great Xia Dynasty isn't a tenth as impressive," Han Lu remarked with a sigh of admiration.

Li Xiaohu pouted. "As if you've ever been to the Imperial City of the Great Xia Dynasty!"

Han Lu: ...

Lin Xuankong glanced around, his gaze settling on the southeast. Young Lady Lii Xiaolan had arranged for Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er to stay at the Fuyuan Immortal Inn in the southeast of the Immortal City. He had contacted Young Lady Lii Xiaolan not long ago, and she had said she would also be there today.

It has been over a year since we parted ways in Great Marsh Prefecture. I haven't seen Young Lady Lii Xiaolan since then...

Spiritual Crane Immortal City was protected by a No-fly Array. Without the sect's permission or a special sect token, no cultivator dared to fly; otherwise, they would be immediately attacked by the No-fly Array.

Lin Xuankong and his seven companions had no choice but to walk quickly along the avenue. After almost an hour, they finally reached Spirit Happiness Street, where the Fuyuan Immortal Inn was located. Upon arriving, they saw that the street, about ten zhang wide, was densely packed with cultivators on both sides. At a glance, there were thousands, perhaps even tens of thousands, of Eighth Layer and Ninth Layer Cultivators!

These cultivators from various dynasties were either standing on their fierce beasts and Spirit Birds along the street or perched on the adjacent buildings, all looking towards the largest structure at the street's intersection.

On that building hung a golden, glowing plaque: Fuyuan Immortal Inn.

And at the entrance of the Fuyuan Immortal Inn lay a Tier Nine Perfection Earth Dragon, over a hundred zhang long. Above the head of the Earth Dragon, its thousands of tentacles writhing, stood a young master with a face like jade, a tall figure, and a longsword at his waist. Additionally, more than thirty Ninth-Layer Cultivators stood by, each with a hand on their weapon, their gazes fixed on the entrance of the Fuyuan Inn.

Lin Xuankong frowned slightly at this scene. Young Lady Lii Xiaolan and Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er should be in this Fuyuan Inn.

Chapter 405: The Pride of the Xianluo Dynasty, The Priceless Spirit Grass.

Lin Xuankong frowned as he looked towards the handsome youth at the entrance of Fuyuan Inn.

According to Young Lady Li Xiaolan, Fuyuan Immortal Inn is a business of an Immortal Sect called the Fuyuan Immortal Sect in Spiritual Crane Immortal City. Though the Fuyuan Immortal Sect is far weaker than the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, it still has two First-Grade Earth Immortals stationed there! But to think the Fuyuan Immortal Inn is actually being blocked by someone at its entrance?

Lin Xuankong called Little Hu to his side. "Go find out what's going on."

Soon, Li Xiaohu returned to Lin Xuankong's side with a peculiar expression. "Foster Father, you really are amazing!"

Lin Xuankong was somewhat surprised. "What's this got to do with me?"

Han Lu and the others were also a bit surprised.

Li Xiaohu whispered, "That youth standing outside Fuyuan Inn is called Chang Li, a prince from the Xianluo Dynasty. At only eighteen years old, having cultivated for just twelve years, he has already reached Ninth-Layer Perfection!

"In terms of talent, he far surpasses Cao Yu—one of the Sect Leader's True Inheritance of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, the very person I once impersonated!

"It's said that for this disciple recruitment event of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, there are over forty thousand Tier Nine Cultivators from several thousand dynasties. Purely in terms of cultivation speed, this Chang Li can rank in the top three. He's one of the hottest candidates for the disciple recruitment event, and his chances of joining the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect are almost one hundred percent!"

Hearing this, Han Lu couldn't help but sigh. "When I had cultivated for twelve years, I was only in the late stage of the First Tier of Transcendence.

"If I hadn't met Boss, I might have only been able to reach the mid to late Third Tier of Transcendence in this lifetime.

"And that's during the early stage of Transcendence, which is relatively easier to cultivate.

"By the middle and late stages of Transcendence, the cultivation speed slows down dramatically, and the difficulty increases countless times over!

"For someone to walk such an arduous cultivation path so quickly, reaching Ninth-Layer Perfection in just twelve years, is truly astounding!"

Hu Shuo, Yang Mountain, Li Er, and Liy Ruofeng also sighed in admiration. Their talents in their respective sects and families were considered good, but if they had to rely on their own diligent cultivation, forget twelve years; even in one hundred and twenty years, or even twelve hundred years, they wouldn't dare claim they could definitely reach Ninth-Layer Perfection!

The top genius of the Great Xia Dynasty, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, had only barely reached the Sixth Layer after cultivating for over ten years! And this was for the most talented individual among hundreds of millions in an entire dynasty, who also had access to the very best resources... One can only imagine how difficult it is for a normal cultivator to reach Ninth-Layer Perfection in twelve years!

When they suddenly heard how extraordinarily talented this young man, Chang Li, was, how could they not be filled with awe!

Of course, these few naturally excluded their 'Boss,' Lin Xuankong's, talent and cultivation speed from comparison. For these few who now greatly revered Lin Xuankong, the world consisted of two types of people: normal cultivators and Lin Xuankong! No matter how much they marveled at others' cultivation speeds, they would never compare anyone else's talent with their Boss Lin Xuankong's.

Li Xiaohu nodded. "There's more.

"It's said that this Chang Li was born with the ancestral Profound Dragon bloodline of the Human Race, allowing him to easily command all Dragon Creatures.

"Whether it's an Earth Dragon, a Flood Dragon, or a Poison Dragon, as long as their Cultivation Tier is the same as or lower than his, he can subdue them with a single thought. Furthermore, even Dragon Creatures of a higher tier than his, when battling him, will be suppressed by his bloodline and can only unleash a small fraction of their strength!

"This means that although Chang Li is at Ninth-Layer Perfection, he can fight an Initial Stage of Immortal Grade Demon Dragon and, relying on bloodline suppression and his cultivation techniques, emerge victorious.

"That Earth Dragon Demon he's treading on, which radiates a Tier Nine aura, is actually an Initial Stage of Immortal Grade Earth Dragon that he subdued. It only emits a Tier Nine aura because Chang Li suppressed its bloodline!"

An Initial Stage of Immortal Grade Demon?

Han Lu and the others' gazes shifted, looking into the distance.

At this moment, it wasn't just Han Lu and his companions; the cultivators riding various Exotic Beasts and Spirit Birds on both sides of Blessing Avenue were also looking at Chang Li with faces full of envy.

Demons themselves possess various powerful Demon Techniques, and when fighting cultivators of the same tier, they generally have the upper hand. In other words, the Demon currently under Chang Li's feet was a fearsome creature that would give even Initial Tier Earth Immortals a headache!

Moreover, Demons are savage and brutal, and have always preyed on Human Race cultivators for food. Under normal circumstances, how could anyone possibly subdue a Demon to become a mount? Even those Middle-High Grade Earth Immortal powerhouses could, at most, only slay Low-Grade Demons; wanting to subdue one was utterly impossible!

Yet this Chang Li was able to subdue such a Demon as a mount, and it seemed that the Immortal-grade Earth Dragon lay there, looking quite docile.

How could these geniuses and prodigies from various dynasties not be envious?

For a moment, cultivators, both men and women, all along the street turned to look at Chang Li and his Immortal-grade Earth Dragon, discussing them in low voices.

Even when an occasional Earth Immortal Powerhouse swept past close to the ground on a Magical Artifact, they would reveal a hint of envy upon seeing Chang Li and his Immortal-grade Earth Dragon.



Moreover, a constant stream of exceptionally beautiful and gorgeously dressed Female Cultivators crowded towards Fuyuan Inn, wanting to get a clearer look at this young prodigy who had recently become famous in Spiritual Crane Immortal City!

If not for their fear of the Immortal-grade Earth Dragon's formidable reputation, some Female Cultivators would likely have already approached Chang Li to strike up a conversation.

Lin Xuankong, hearing this, wasn't particularly moved. For him, as long as he advanced to the Initial Tier Earth Immortal Realm, relying on the Great Reincarnation Technique, obtaining an Initial Stage of Immortal Grade Earth Dragon as a mount would be absolutely effortless!

Chapter 406: The Pride of the Xianluo Dynasty, The Priceless Spirit Grass\_2

"So what does this Chang Li have to do with my strength?" Lin Xuankong asked in confusion.

Li Xiaohu showed a strange expression and said, "This Chang Li has recently become famous in Spiritual Crane Immortal City. His every move is naturally watched by countless people! I just went to gather information and found out that the only reason Chang Li came to this Fuyuan Immortal Inn is because of a woman staying here!"

Lin Xuankong frowned. "Is it because of Xiaoo Ying'Er?"

Li Xiaohu nodded. "It is said that Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er possesses the Profound Phoenix Strange Vein, allowing for rapid progress in her Cultivation. She has also mastered the Blood Bath Divine Skill, a technique exclusive to those with the Profound Phoenix Strange Vein. Consequently, she is a prominent candidate for the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's disciple recruitment ceremony, ranked eighteenth after comprehensive evaluations!

"Because of this, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er is now very famous in Spiritual Crane Immortal City. Recently, countless young talents have flocked to the Fuyuan Immortal Inn, hoping to see her. However, all have been turned away by Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect Leader Hua and the female owner of the Fuyuan Immortal Inn!

"This Chang Li also wanted to meet Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er but, unfortunately, she refused to see him as well. Ever since Chang Li began his daily visits, his formidable reputation has deterred other pursuers of the Third Princess. They lost face and no longer dared to seek an audience with her!"

Upon hearing this, Li Xiaohu laughed. "What these people don't know is that Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er of the Great Xia Dynasty has long been infatuated with my foster father! The very Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er they desperately wish to see personally washes and feeds fruit to my foster father every day. Even this Chang Li is just deluding himself... This fact alone shows how amazing my foster father is!"

Han Lu and the others couldn't help but laugh upon hearing this.

Lin Xuankong lightly tapped Little Hu's head. "You're always up to something strange!"

After saying that, he led the group towards the exquisitely decorated Fuyuan Inn.

Watching the youth in the distance, Lin Xuankong shook his head slightly. He initially thought this young Chang Li had a grudge against the Fuyuan Immortal Inn and was here to cause trouble... Who would have thought he was just a love-struck fool!

A moment later, the group stood before the tall entrance of the Fuyuan Immortal Inn.

By this time, the surrounding Cultivators, who were watching, naturally noticed this group. Instantly, many people began to murmur in low voices.

"Ha, the charm of Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er is indeed extraordinary; is this another one of her suitors?"

"Chang Li is here, and someone else dares to come over? Isn't he just asking to be humiliated? Xiaoo Ying'Er didn't even see Chang Li and gave him the cold shoulder; how could she give this person a second thought?"

"This guy looks unfamiliar; he must not be one of the recently famous young talents aiming for the disciple recruitment ceremony!"

"He looks quite handsome, but alas, with Xiaoo Ying'Er's high standards, she wouldn't be swayed by mere looks!"

"I heard that a few days ago, two First-Grade Earth Immortals invited Xiaoo Ying'Er to a banquet, and they were both rejected! This Xiaoo Ying'Er has such high standards that she doesn't even care for First-Grade Earth Immortals. How could she possibly care for ordinary people?"

"Indeed! Crossing the Immortal Tribulation is difficult. Even someone as talented as Chang Li cannot guarantee passing it to become an Earth Immortal. Yet, Xiaoo Ying'Er dares to turn down even a First-Grade Earth Immortal. Who knows why the Profound Phoenix Strange Vein is so highly sought after!"

Amidst the countless discussions of the Cultivators, Chang Li, standing on the head of the Earth Dragon, also noticed Lin Xuankong and his group.

However, he merely glanced at them before withdrawing his gaze. Then, he instructed his attendants to deliver some gifts to the Fuyuan Immortal Inn's gatekeeper, explaining his wish to invite Xiaoo Ying'Er to his birthday banquet. After this, he stood silently on the dragon's head, waiting quietly.

Upon seeing the gifts Chang Li had sent, the countless Cultivators around were instantly astounded, then started discussing once more.

"Three hundred Profound Truth Jades? Chang Li sent three hundred Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jades just to invite Xiaoo Ying'Er to his birthday banquet? Did I see that right? Is it really three hundred Profound Truth Jades? Chang Li is so extravagant!"

"It's more than just three hundred Profound Truth Jades; the most precious among those gifts is that Gathering Essence Grass seed!"

"Gathering Essence Grass seed? Are you sure that's a Gathering Essence Grass seed?"

"There's no mistake because I was fortunate enough to see a drawing of it in my master's notes! It is said that Gathering Essence Grass can gather the energy of the earth's veins, forming Geng Metal and Thick Earth Spirit Veins. If this Gathering Essence Grass seed is planted in a Secret Realm, it can form Thick Earth and Geng Metal Spirit Veins in five hundred years. With this Gathering Essence Grass seed and a Celestial Demon Bone, one can have an unending supply of spiritual objects, enough to support several thousand elite Disciples of a Sect!"

"The Gathering Essence Grass seed has been auctioned at the Spiritual Crane Immortal City Auction House for as much as two thousand Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jades! Just to invite a beautiful woman to his birthday banquet, he sent such a precious gift? He truly lives up to being the most talented Prince of the Xianluo Dynasty!"

"It seems that this time, Xiaoo Ying'Er will be moved no matter what!"

Listening to the murmurs of the surrounding Cultivators, a cold smile appeared on Chang Li's lips, standing on the head of the Earth Dragon.

The Gathering Essence Grass seed is indeed extremely precious, as each plant can only produce a single seed. By giving away this seed, it's akin to gifting Xiaoo Ying'Er a Thick Earth and Geng Metal Spirit Vein, and all he asked in return was for her to attend his birthday banquet three days later! With such an extravagant gift, Xiaoo Ying'Er should not refuse! As for people thinking he is just after Xiaoo Ying'Er's beauty and Talent, they truly underestimate him! They have no idea about the real wonders of Xiaoo Ying'Er's Profound Phoenix Strange Vein! It was only through ancient secret texts, preserved by his family for hundreds of thousands of years, that he learned of the Profound Phoenix Strange Vein's astonishing ability to help Cultivators break through Realms! The Earth Immortals of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect probably don't know this secret. Otherwise, the opportunity to pursue Xiaoo Ying'Er would not have fallen to him; a powerful Earth Immortal would likely have already taken her away!

While Chang Li was silently contemplating, Lin Xuankong was also surprised to see him presenting such a precious gift.

Lin Xuankong had amassed a fortune equivalent to a nation's wealth through the Heavy Water Spiritual Objects from the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, acquiring numerous Demon Flesh and resources. He knew the value of Five Elements Spiritual Objects better than many. If the Gathering Essence Grass seed genuinely had the effects those Cultivators mentioned, it would indeed be worth a thousand Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jades, and its value would far exceed that! If this Gathering Essence Grass seed were planted in his Secret Realm, coupled with the incredibly marvelous Plant Spirit Liquid from the Plant Spirit Bottle, wouldn't it form Mineral Spiritual Veins in just five years? It was clear that this seed's value in his hands would be immeasurable! Such a valuable gift would indeed touch anyone's heart! One could not help but wonder if Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er would be moved? After all, although Chang Li came under the guise of pursuing Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, he did not make any demands; he merely wished for the Third Princess to attend his birthday banquet!

With this thought, Lin Xuankong was in no hurry to take out his Communication Jade, nor was he in a rush to contact Lii Xiaolan and Xiaoo Ying'Er. He quietly stood to the side of the Fuyuan Immortal Inn, looking towards its grand entrance.

#### Chapter 407: Strong Opponent, Worthy Luo Tian

After the gatekeeper of the Fuyuan Inn took the gift inside to find Xiaoo Ying'Er, the thousands of cultivators watching on Blessing Avenue immediately began to discuss it.

At first, almost everyone believed that Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er from the remote Great Xia Dynasty would never refuse such a precious gift.

However, as time passed bit by bit, some people gradually began to waver, including the initially confident Second Prince Chang Li of the Xianluo Dynasty.

After all, this was not the first time he had been rejected by Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er.

On over ten previous occasions, he had sent various gifts, including several sets of Battle Armor, Demon Pearls from powerful demons, and even Magical Artifacts. However, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er had never appeared, outright rejecting his gifts each time.

However, this time the gift included Gathering Essence Grass seeds. With just three to five seeds, one could potentially purchase an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact! Moreover, this time I'm merely inviting Xiaoo Ying'Er to attend my birthday celebration! For my birthday banquet this time, even more than ten Earth Immortals who favor me have agreed to send their disciples to offer congratulations! Surely, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er couldn't possibly think she's harder to invite than Earth Immortals, or that her status surpasses theirs! No, this time she absolutely cannot refuse me!

Chang Li's eyebrows gradually furrowed.

Half a Cup of Tea Time later, the door of the Fuyuan Immortal Inn suddenly opened.

The gatekeeper emerged first, closely followed by a dignified woman—none other than Sect Leader Hua of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect.

As one of Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's masters, and the woman Emperor Xiao of Great Xia relied on most, Sect Leader Hua had personally accompanied Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er to the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect on this occasion.

At this moment, when Sect Leader Hua of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect walked to the entrance, Chang Li, whose brow had been furrowed, immediately brightened with a faint smile.

Previously, whenever I sent gifts, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er would always have the Fuyuan Immortal Inn's gatekeeper return them with a polite refusal; neither she nor her companions ever made an appearance. This time, someone close to Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er has finally appeared! It seems my considerable expense this time is finally going to yield some progress!

Overjoyed, Chang Li immediately leaped from his Earth Dragon and quickly walked toward Sect Leader Hua.

The surrounding cultivators all wore 'as expected' expressions, sighing in lament. Indeed, wealth truly moves hearts.

Even someone as divinely beautiful and peerlessly talented as Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er couldn't resist the invaluable Gathering Essence Grass seeds!

Amidst the crowd's murmurs, Chang Li quickly reached Sect Leader Hua's side and cupped his hands in salute, "You must be Sect Leader Hua of the Great Xia Dynasty's Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect; I have long heard of your esteemed name! Has Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er accepted the gift and agreed to attend my birthday celebration three days from now?"

Sect Leader Hua, now the focus of countless cultivators' gazes, offered an apologetic smile.

"The Xianluo Dynasty and our Great Xia Dynasty are separated by millions of miles and have had no prior contact. However, since the Second Prince has extended such a gracious invitation, my Ying'Er should indeed attend and offer her congratulations.

"However, Ying'Er recently had an epiphany in her cultivation and may need to enter seclusion for a period. Therefore, she regrettably cannot attend the Second Prince's celebration.

"These Gathering Essence Grass seeds are exceptionally precious, as are the three hundred Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jade stones. Ying'Er says she cannot accept rewards she has not earned. She appreciates the Second Prince's kind intentions, but she certainly cannot accept these gifts.

"Furthermore, as it is the Second Prince's upcoming birthday, Ying'Er and I, representing the Great Xia Dynasty, have prepared a few gifts to show our respect!"

After speaking, she opened the gift box in her hand and handed it to Chang Li.

Inside the box were the precious Gathering Essence Grass seeds, the three hundred Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jade stones, and some rather expensive medicinal herbs—evidently the birthday gifts Sect Leader Hua had mentioned.

Hearing Sect Leader Hua's words and seeing the gift box she proffered, Chang Li's expression changed slightly, a surge of anger rising in his heart.

She actually refused me again? And in front of countless cultivators from various dynasties! The most infuriating part is that the gifts I prepared were so precious, yet she still refused them?

Chang Li's expression shifted rapidly; he found it almost impossible to accept what was happening.

On both sides of Blessing Avenue, the many thousands of cultivators watching this unfold were dumbfounded. Some of the more comely female cultivators even shook their heads repeatedly.

In their eyes, such precious gifts were practically unheard of.

The three hundred Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jade stones alone were nearly enough to establish an entire Sect from scratch, and the Gathering Essence Grass seeds represented a continuous stream of invaluable resources!

These gifts weren't asking Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er to risk her life or sell herself in some way—only to attend Chang Li's birthday celebration!

It was just attending a banquet; did Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er really need to refuse? Moreover, he was the Second Prince of the Xianluo Dynasty, one of the truly powerful dynasties among the three thousand great dynasties. The Xianluo Dynasty was many times stronger than the Great Xia Dynasty and was rumored to have excellent relations with several Earth Immortal powerhouses. With such a background and backing, how could a mere third princess from a minor dynasty dare to refuse him time and time again? Most critically, Second Prince Chang Li was ranked among the top three peerless prodigies out of all the cultivators who had come to the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect this time! How could Xiaoo Ying'Er be so arrogant as to refuse him repeatedly? And how could she bear to turn down such gifts?

#### Chapter 408: Strong Opponent, Worthy Luo Tian Pride\_2

As the crowd watched in astonishment and sighed with emotion, Chang Li gradually suppressed the anger in his heart. He steadily took the gift box, his expression changing, a gentle look appearing on his face.

"Since Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er has suddenly had an insight during her cultivation and needs to go into seclusion, Chang Li is, of course, happy for her. As for these gifts, even if Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er cannot attend my birthday banquet in time, she can still keep them.

"Perhaps she can even make it up to me with another birthday banquet in the future!"

Celestial Sect Leader Hua sighed softly in his heart. If, before witnessing Mr. Mu deal with the Eight Great Demon Venerables, I had encountered this Second Prince from the Xianluo Dynasty, I would have undoubtedly, without hesitation, made the decision for Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er and insisted she attend Second Prince Chang Li's birthday banquet! But after personally witnessing Mr. Mu, with his Ninth-Layer Perfection strength, repel the Pseudo-Earth Immortal Realm Eight Great Demon Venerables, and overthrow the Rakshasa Six Demon Sects within a single hour, Emperor Xiaoo and I have already agreed to let Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er be with Mr. Mu! Moreover, Mr. Mu saved a hundred Tier Eight and Tier Nine cultivators of the Great Xia Dynasty. This immense kindness... No matter how talented Chang Li is, so what if he can subdue an Initial Tier Earth Immortal Level demon? No matter how strong Chang Li's cultivation is, or how powerful his backing, so what? I can't possibly be ungrateful and try to persuade Ying'Er to accept this Chang Li!

Thinking of this, Celestial Sect Leader Hua cupped his hands and said, "Second Prince, I will certainly convey your kind intentions. However, since Ying'Er has already asked me to deliver the gifts, I believe she will not reconsider matters concerning you! I humbly ask for the Second Prince's forgiveness!"



Celestial Sect Leader Hua certainly understood that rejecting Chang Li so publicly would likely turn his admiration into resentment. However, if they were to drag things out and remain ambiguous, it would only cause Ying'Er more trouble in the future, possibly even attracting some irksome problems she couldn't shake off! Better a swift, sharp pain than a lingering one. If they could make Chang Li give up all hope today, it would be for the best for both Ying'Er and him!

However, while Celestial Sect Leader Hua thought this, how could Chang Li possibly know?

Upon hearing Sect Leader Hua's rejection once more, a hint of coldness flickered deep within Chang Li's eyes, but he quickly masked it, then put on a smile.

"It seems the gifts I selected this time still do not meet the Third Princess's approval!

"But, that's to be expected. I've heard that the numerous cultivators in Spiritual Crane Immortal City have already ranked those participating in the upcoming disciple recruitment event. Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er is ranked eighteenth among tens of thousands of Ninth-Layer cultivators—the only woman to make it into the top twenty!

"With such talent, not much inferior to my own, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er naturally has high standards!

"Very well. In the future, if I acquire any other fine items, I will send them to the Third Princess. The next gift will undoubtedly be even more precious than this one!"

After speaking, he leaped lightly, once again landing atop the Earth Dragon's head.

Just then, Celestial Sect Leader Hua's expression suddenly faltered, his gaze falling upon Lin Xuankong, who stood in a corner.

"Sect Leader Hua!" Lin Xuankong cupped his hands and smiled.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er is so resolute, rejecting Second Prince Chang Li of the Xianluo Dynasty so utterly, leaving him no leeway at all! A warmth spread through Lin Xuankong's heart, a sense of being

deeply touched. Looking at Celestial Sect Leader Hua, even this old woman, who once advised the Third Princess to leave me, seems considerably more agreeable now!

Celestial Sect Leader Hua, however, showed a look of pleasant surprise.

"Mr. Mu, you've come? You're finally here! Ying'Er has been anxiously waiting for you for months, fearing you might miss the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's disciple recruitment event and be unable to join the sect!

"Thankfully, you've arrived in time. There are only a little over ten days left before the recruitment event officially begins!

"Quick, Mr. Mu, please come in!"

With that, Celestial Sect Leader Hua quickly walked to Lin Xuankong's side, leading the way for him and his companions into the Fuyuan Immortal Inn!

This scene, witnessed by the many thousands of cultivators nearby, left them all with expressions of utter disbelief. Most of them had long heard of the renowned arrogance of Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er of Great Xia. Ever since she displayed her strength in the initial trials of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's disciple recruitment event, her admirers had been numerous. Those who came to the Fuyuan Immortal Inn to pursue her were as countless as crucian carp crossing a river. Yet, this Third Princess of Great Xia had never shown any man the slightest favor, nor had she even made many public appearances since then!

However, what was the deal with this Mr. Mu before them? He had only just arrived and was immediately welcomed into Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's lodgings? And judging by Celestial Sect Leader Hua's words, the Third Princess had actually been waiting for this Mr. Mu?

"Where on earth did this Mr. Mu come from? Is he also from the Great Xia Dynasty, to be held in such high regard by the Third Princess?"

"No wonder Xiaoo Ying'Er never showed any other man the slightest courtesy, not even deigning to respond to the prominent Chang Li... It must be because of this man!"

"It's said that Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er is not yet wed! Since this Mr. Mu is a man, how could he be directly welcomed into the Fuyuan Immortal Inn, a place only accessible if a female cultivator permits entry?"

"Has this prized flower already found its owner? They say Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er possesses heavenly beauty, her appearance and figure both transcendent and refined, such that even Fairies of the Earth Immortal Realm would seem three parts inferior by comparison! And yet, this Mr. Mu is able to enter the Third Princess's residence? How utterly enviable!"

"Xiaoo Ying'Er rejected three hundred Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jades, the incredibly precious Gathering Essence Grass, and even the Second Prince of Xianluo, yet she invited only this Mr. Mu inside! Tsk, tsk!"

Among the murmuring cultivators, some were aghast, some were incredulous, some were green with envy, and others wore strange expressions. Naturally, many eyes also fell upon Chang Li, who had just been rejected.

At this moment, although Chang Li maintained a calm and indifferent expression, his eyes were already brimming with a chilling coldness.

I meticulously prepared so many gifts, came to this Fuyuan Immortal Inn more than ten times, and was even willing to offer Xiaoo Ying'Er the immensely valuable Gathering Essence Grass, yet every time she rejected me without the slightest reservation... This Mr. Mu merely arrives, and that Celestial Sect Leader Hua joyfully ushers him in... Even an idiot could perceive that the relationship between Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er and this Mr. Mu is anything but ordinary! Even an idiot, standing in my shoes right now, would be seething with shame and anger! However, I absolutely must not succumb to impotent rage at this moment. As long as Xiaoo Ying'Er has not yet given her body to this Mr. Mu, I still have a chance! That Profound Phoenix Strange Vein! If I can merge with her in body and soul, I can instantly advance from Ninth-Layer Perfection to the Initial Tier Earth Immortal Realm! If I manage to preserve it for the future, should I have the chance to reach the Ninth Layer of Earth Immortal... wouldn't I then ascend to the Celestial Immortal Realm, a realm perhaps unattained even within the Spirit Platform Buddhist Sect? I absolutely cannot give up, I must not give up... This matter is of supreme importance! It concerns my future path of cultivation, my ascent to the Earth Immortal Realm, and even the Celestial Immortal Realm!

Thinking this, Chang Li's jaw tightened slightly. With a mere thought, the Earth Dragon began to move, swiftly departing from the vicinity of the Fuyuan Inn and heading along Blessing Avenue towards his own residence.

That Mr. Mu... According to that contemptible Sect Leader Hua of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect, he's here to participate in the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's disciple recruitment event! If that's the case, then there's a high probability that I'll encounter him in the upcoming recruitment trials... Even if I don't face him directly in the trials, I can always find ways to bribe his opponents! Mr. Mu? If he genuinely possesses some skill, then so be it. But if he's just an unremarkable Ninth-Layer Perfection cultivator... Then he can only blame his own wretched Life Plate, for being fated to clash with a baleful star! I, Chang Li, as one of the three most sought-after and powerful young prodigies in Spiritual Crane Immortal City, how could I possibly endure this humiliation? Much less allow Xiaoo Ying'Er to be obtained by someone else! Mr. Mu? Just some commoner from a remote, minor dynasty! There are countless methods to secretly gather people to deal with you. At the very least, a mere Ninth-Layer cultivator like you can never withstand a Demon King Level demon! When the disciple recruitment event begins, that will be the time of your utter ruin and death!

Chapter 409: The Immortal Sect's Initial Test for Recruiting Disciples, The Insider Details of the Disciple Induction Ceremony

Chang Li angrily departed from outside Fuyuan Immortal Inn.

Inside the inn, Lin Xuankong, along with Li Xiaohu and the others, was led by Sect Leader Hua toward the ninth floor.

If it were merely Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, she certainly wouldn't have possessed enough influence to occupy the ninth floor of the Immortal Inn as her personal resting place. However, Young Lady Lii Xiaolan was now the esteemed disciple of Qu Wan'Er, a Third-Grade Earth Immortal from the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect!

Although Qu Wan'Er's cultivation was at the third grade, she was the only Earth Immortal among the dozens in the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect capable of refining the Immortal Ascension Treasure Pill, granting her an exceptionally high status!

According to Young Lady Lii Xiaolan, a minor immortal sect like the Fuyuan Immortal Sect always went out of its way to curry favor with Qu Wan'Er. Even the Sect Leader of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect held Earth Immortal Qu Wan'Er in high esteem. Furthermore, even the Supreme Elders of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, who seldom emerged from their Immortal Yuan Cave Mansions, were said to greatly respect Qu Wan'Er!

It could be said that although Young Lady Lii Xiaolan's master, Qu Wan'Er, was not the Sect Leader of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, her words carried many times more weight than the Sect Leader's. Consequently, Young Lady Lii Xiaolan, as a True Disciple, naturally held an extremely high status—indeed, immeasurably higher than Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's so-called status as a dynasty princess! With Young Lady Lii Xiaolan personally making an appearance, forget reserving just the ninth floor of the Fuyuan Immortal Inn; if she wanted to book the entire establishment, the Fuyuan Immortal Sect would probably scramble to offer a discount of 80%, 90%, or even a "bone-breaking" level of reduction!

The only thing that slightly troubled Lin Xuankong was that back when he was in the Great Xia Dynasty, he often communicated with Lii Xiaolan via Communication Jade. Lii Xiaolan had mentioned that after getting to know her, she discovered her master, Qu Wan'Er, seemed to have suffered some past emotional heartbreak, which made her harbor a strong aversion to male cultivators. Because of this, not only were there no male cultivators on Qu Wan'Er's Medicine Immortal Peak, but a stone tablet at its foot was even inscribed with: "Demons and Men Prohibited." Also, due to this, every time Qu Wan'Er successfully refined an Immortal Ascension Treasure Pill, the Sect Leader of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect would dispatch a female cultivator—specifically one who was unmarried—to retrieve the elixir. And for this same reason, Young Lady Lii Xiaolan, who was eager to learn Qu Wan'Er's alchemy technique for the Immortal Ascension Treasure Pill, had to temporarily conceal the fact that she was already married and that her husband was Lin Xuankong, lest Qu Wan'Er, in a moment of displeasure, expel her from the sect! What a strange Fairy indeed! Just because you yourself suffered heartbreak, you decide to condemn all men in the world? Not all men are heartless cads, you know! For instance, I, Lin Xuankong, am definitely not one!

His mind still occupied with these thoughts, Lin Xuankong followed Sect Leader Hua to the ninth floor. After instructing Li Xiaohu and the others to wait in one of the guest rooms, he proceeded with Sect Leader Hua toward Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's room.

"Mr. Mu, you were far away in the Great Xia Dynasty, and Ying'Er didn't want to tell you about the troubles she encountered for fear of worrying you. So, she and Lady Lii kept these matters hidden from you!"

Celestial Sect Leader Hua sighed. "During this time, far too many male cultivators have come to the Fuyuan Immortal Inn. Both Ying'Er and I are thoroughly fed up, yet most of these male cultivators have significant backgrounds and powerful backing, making it difficult to drive them away directly! Moreover, because those suitors are all quite polite, eager to display their gentlemanly conduct, they haven't misbehaved. This made it difficult even for Lady Lii, who holds a considerable position in the Immortal City, to step in and stop them! After all, it's natural for gentlemen to pursue a fair lady. Ying'Er can choose not to favor them, but she can't very well kill every man who shows her admiration, can she?"

As Celestial Sect Leader Hua spoke, her expression was tinged with melancholy. She stole a glance at Lin Xuankong and continued, "Of course, the reason so many cultivators have come flocking here isn't because Ying'Er has been overly conspicuous. It's just that during the recent initial disciple selection trials of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, Ying'Er made an appearance. Then, on the martial arts arena, she used the Blood Bath Divine Skill, which caused a sensation. Consequently, she was ranked eighteenth among tens of thousands of cultivators by those who enjoy making such lists! Coupled with Ying'Er's unique talent and outstanding beauty, this is what has attracted so much trouble!"

Celestial Sect Leader Hua's tone now carried an explanatory note, clearly not wanting 'Mr. Mu' to misunderstand Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er. However, if any other cultivator from the Great Xia Dynasty were to witness this scene, their jaws would likely drop in astonishment. In the Great Xia Dynasty, Celestial Sect Leader Hua, whose status was comparable to that of Emperor Xiao of Great Xia, was actually speaking to Lin Xuankong with such a cautious and respectful demeanor!

Lin Xuankong nodded slightly. "Naturally, I trust Ying'Er. But for her to rank among the top eighteen in the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's disciple selection trials?"

In Lin Xuankong's mind, since those prodigies came from countless dynasties, large and small, and many of these dynasties were many times more powerful than Great Xia, with correspondingly far more cultivators... In such a situation, where prodigies were numerous and experts as common as clouds, even though Ying'Er's Profound Phoenix Strange Vein and Blood Bath Divine Skill were formidable, it still seemed unlikely she could achieve such a high ranking among so many exceptional talents! It feels like if I were to fight her, I could probably pin her by the side of a pool with one hand and make her obediently wash fruit for me!

Celestial Sect Leader Hua's expression froze upon hearing this, and her heart filled with exasperation.

Ying'Er's Profound Phoenix Strange Vein! Is that not the mark of a prodigy unparalleled among the hundreds of millions in the Great Xia Dynasty? Even among the tens of thousands of geniuses gathered this time from the Central Divine Dynasty, there isn't a second one like her! With such talent and strength, isn't it perfectly natural for her to rank among the top eighteen?

Chapter 410: The Immortal Sect's Initial Test for Recruiting Disciples, The Insider Details of the Disciple Induction Ceremony - Part 2

Hearing Mu Shiba's words, Sect Leader Hua seemed very surprised. However, when he considered that this 'Demonic Monster' Mu Shiba had been able to counterattack the Eight Great Demon Venerables

while at the Ninth Layer and even sweep through the Six Great Demon Sects, Celestial Sect Leader Hua could only sigh inwardly.

"Mr. Mu's methods are formidable, and his Talent far surpasses that of Same Tier Cultivators... Although Ying'Er's Talent is good, ultimately... she still can't compare to Mr. Mu! Moreover, the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's initial disciple recruitment test merely grants a qualification to participate in the martial competition. During the tests and matches, participants are not allowed to use Magical Artifacts, Demon Pearls, Exotic Beasts, Immortal Artifacts, and the like. So, it doesn't truly reveal a participant's complete strength! Only during the official disciple acceptance ceremony, when everyone fights fiercely for a chance to join the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, will their true mettle be shown!"

Lin Xuankong nodded slightly. "In that case, if I want to participate in the disciple acceptance ceremony, do I also need to undergo tests and competitions at the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect?"

Before he could finish speaking, a voice suddenly sounded from behind him.

"Yes, of course, you also need to participate in the initial tests. Otherwise, how could you take part in the disciple acceptance ceremony? The Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect can't possibly test tens of thousands of Cultivators on the very day of the ceremony, can they? They have to eliminate most of the unqualified Cultivators beforehand, so only the true prodigies remain for the ceremony!"

Hearing the crisp, pleasant, and incredibly familiar voice, a hint of a smile touched Lin Xuankong's eyes. He turned his head and saw Young Lady Lii Xiaolan, dressed in green, with a slender, graceful figure and a face as lovely as a flower, standing behind him with a charming smile.

Gazing at the young lady he hadn't seen in over a year, Lin Xuankong smiled, a wave of emotion washing over him. Time truly flies in Cultivation. Back when he and Lan were together, he never would have imagined they'd be separated for more than a year! To ensure he could successfully achieve the Earth Immortal realm and to help him learn the refining method for the Immortal Ascension Treasure Pill, the young lady had traveled countless miles. She joined the unfamiliar Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and had already stayed for more than a year! He was truly fortunate to have such a young lady in his life!

"What are you grinning foolishly for? Did you bring any hometown snacks from our Great Marsh Prefecture?" Lii Xiaolan wrinkled her nose, leaning close to Lin Xuankong and sniffing around.

Lin Xuankong took Lii Xiaolan's delicate hand and said with a smile, "Of course, I did! I brought Piaoxiang Tower's specialty dishes, Myriad Tastes Tavern's signature dishes, Old Zhang's leek pies, and Mu Shiba, as well as candied fruits from the Ancient River District, and much, much more—all your favorites!"

Lii Xiaolan's expression turned peculiar. "Why does it sound like something strange was mixed in with all that food you mentioned?"

"Absence makes the heart grow fonder, after all!" Lin Xuankong laughed heartily, reaching out to embrace Lii Xiaolan's slender waist.

But Lii Xiaolan swiftly sidestepped, dodging his Demon's Hand. After shooting him a sidelong glance, she took his hand and led him towards a guest room ahead. "Little Sister Ying'Er and I have been waiting for you for so long. Come in, let's eat something delicious and chat. And stop thinking about bullying me every time you see me!"

After the three of them entered the guest room, Lin Xuankong looked inside and saw the table already laden with various thoroughly washed fruits—melons, common fruits, pears, peaches, and so on. There were even some Exotic Fruits and Spirit Fruits unique to Spiritual Crane Immortal City that Lin Xuankong had never seen before!

Xiaoo Ying'Er, tall and clad in white, her beauty ethereal and refined, gazed fixedly at Lin Xuankong.

"You're here..."

"These... these fruits were all prepared by Sister Lan and me. Most of them are Spirit Fruits and Exotic Fruits that greatly replenish Qi Blood, things you can't find back in the Great Xia Dynasty. This time, you can eat your fill!"

Celestial Sect Leader Hua watched this unfold, sighing inwardly with dismay. He had taught Ying'Er for over ten years and had never once eaten fruit washed by her own hands. Yet this Mu Shiba... Ying'Er must have washed thousands of catties of fruit for him, right? What a terrifying glutton! A wave of bitterness, envy, and jealousy washed over him.



Then, Celestial Sect Leader Hua, knowing when to make himself scarce, offered a polite greeting and excused himself from the room. He closed the guest room door, which was carved from sound-insulating Spirit Wood, and stood guard outside.

「Inside the wooden door.」

Lin Xuankong sat at the table and took out the Great Marsh Prefecture delicacies he had prepared for the two women.

In truth, Spiritual Crane Immortal City's produce was countless times more abundant than that of Great Marsh Prefecture, with an even greater variety of culinary delights. However, as Cultivators hailing from the Great Xia Dynasty, Lii Xiaolan and Xiaoo Ying'Er wore expressions of pure bliss as they savored the tastes of their hometown.

Humans are creatures of diverse tastes, but they share one commonality: a fondness for the foods they grew up with. For it's not just about the flavor, but also about the beautiful memories they carry.

Lin Xuankong, on the other hand, began to sample the fruits without reservation. As he ate, he asked, "That Chang Li from the Xianluo Dynasty—is he very formidable? Does he often come to harass Ying'Er?"

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er and Lii Xiaolan exchanged a glance, a helpless look appearing on both their faces.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er frowned. "It's not really harassment. He just sends some gifts every day or two. Besides, he's not the only one who has come to the Fuyuan Immortal Inn. During this period, there have probably been several hundred visitors! Fortunately, the place Sister Lii arranged for me to stay is a property of the Fuyuan Immortal Sect. So, although those Cultivators keep coming, not a single one has dared to force their way into the Fuyuan Immortal Inn!"

Lii Xiaolan, on the other hand, blinked her clear, bright eyes and said with a smile, "I really don't know where you get your luck from, fellow. You even have such good fortune with romance. To think that even a Celestial Immortal like Little Sister Ying'Er has been won over by you!"